

What is yours, Is mine- A New Social Mix

The attitude of Australian societies perspective towards living is based upon the principles of Western Philosophy where success is measured in terms of the material possessions one owns. Australia's obsession with material gain has created a self centred society where one only thinks of themselves, the notion of communities working together towards common goals or sharing material goods is almost nonexistent. This way of thinking has resulted in oversized McMansions and many Australians either not being able to own a house or finding themselves in a lot of debt. The following proposal aims to shift this philosophy towards living, from the self centred view of 'mine', to 'ours'.

The Australians want for a McMansion has led to heavy repetition in housing typology and urban sprawl. As a result of the high cost of land in Sydney and the desire for a large spacious house or apartment, many people with a low socio economical background find it difficult to own their own house. People who have a moderate income are forced to live in the outer fringes of the quickly expanding Sydney metropolitan, where infrastructure and employment opportunities are scarce. Barriers of social segregation occur between these low income earners who live further away from the city, and the high income earners who live closer to the city centre. Changing this typology of the McMansion and introducing an economic scheme and housing design which enables the low income earners to own their own house or apartment in the CBD, will break down this social segregation and influence a new social philosophy towards living- the philosophy of 'What is Yours, is Mine'.

The architectural opportunities in designing a housing scheme for this new social mix predominantly lies within organisation of the buildings in the master plan so that both public, semi public and private spaces are clearly defined. Hence, the central zone of the plan should be designed to encourage and enable a sense of social contact and community.

In order for the project to be successful the following objectives, principles and ambitions should be achieved:

- Designing the site so that it is attractive and appealing to both social classes.
- Achieve a balance of quality and fairness throughout the site.
- Use architecture and design to change people's attitudes towards living and establish a new philosophy of 'sharing'.
- Designing spaces which get people to communicate and interact
- Create a sense of shared community, no social segregation.
- Having a clear architectural distinction between the differing scales of public and private space.
- Connecting the site through programs which making it accessible to the greater community and further encourage different social classes to interact.
- Design to ESD principles enabling housing to be more affordable to live in, by reducing energy costs.
- Creating employment and promoting local business in the community.

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